

ABSTRACT

5 A soft magnetic material includes a plurality of composite magnetic particles
(40). Each of the plurality of composite magnetic particles (40) has: a metal magnetic
particle (10) including iron; a lower film (20) surrounding the surface of the metal
magnetic particle (10) and including a nonferrous metal; and an insulating upper film
(30) surrounding the surface of the lower film (20) and including at least one of oxygen
and carbon. The nonferrous metal has an affinity with the at least one of oxygen and
10 carbon included in the upper film (30) that is larger than such affinity of iron; or the
nonferrous metal has a diffusion coefficient with respect to the at least one of oxygen
and carbon included in the upper film (30) that is smaller than such diffusion coefficient
of iron. This configuration provides desirable magnetic properties.